

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. A method for managing windows in a window-based display system, the method comprising:
 - 5 providing a plurality of windows, each window being associated with an application, at least one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;
 - assigning, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;
 - 10 assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus; and designating the chosen window as an active window.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - 15 maintaining an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the assigning focus is performed by assigning focus based on the order of the ordered list.
4. The method according to any of claims 1-3, further comprising:
 - 20 upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active, performing the assigning focus to exactly one window, thus designating a new active window.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the event which causes
 - 25 the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.

6. A window-based display system for managing windows, comprising:
- a window display module to provide a plurality of windows, each window being associated with an application, at least one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;
 - a priority assignment module to assign, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;
 - a focus assignment module to assign focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus; and
 - an active window designation module to designate the chosen window as an active window,
- wherein the window display module, the priority assignment module, the focus assignment module and the active window designation module are operationally associated with each other.
7. The system according to claim 6, further comprising:
- a list maintenance module to maintain an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.
8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the focus assignment module is adapted to assign focus based on the order of the ordered list.
9. The system according to any of claims 6-8, wherein the focus assignment module is adapted to assign focus to exactly one window upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.
11. A computer program product readable by a machine, tangibly
5 embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for managing windows in a window-based display system, the method comprising:
- providing a plurality of windows, each window being associated
with an application, at least one of the plurality of windows being able to accept
10 focus;
- assigning, to each one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus, a focus priority;
- assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing,
from among the at least one of the plurality of windows able to accept focus, a
15 window having a highest focus priority of the windows able to accept focus; and
designating the chosen window as an active window.
12. The computer program product according to claim 11, wherein the method further comprises maintaining an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving
20 preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus.
13. The computer program product according to claim 12, wherein the assigning focus is performed by assigning focus based on the order of the ordered list.
- 25 14. The computer program product according to any of claims 11-13, wherein the method further comprises, upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active, performing the assigning focus to exactly one window, thus designating a new active window.

15. The computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following: closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.
- 5 16. A method for managing windows in a window-based display system, the method comprising:
- providing a plurality of windows, each window being associated with an application, at least one of the plurality of windows being able to accept focus;
- 10 assigning, to each one of the plurality of windows, a focus priority; maintaining an ordered list, in order of focus priority, of the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, giving preference within any one focus priority to one or more windows which have requested focus; and
- 15 assigning focus to exactly one window at any time by choosing, from among the at least one of the plurality of windows which is able to accept focus, a window having the highest focus priority and designating the chosen window as an active window.
17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising:
- 20 upon occurrence of an event which causes the active window to become non-active, performing the assigning focus to exactly one window, thus designating a new active window.
18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the event which causes the active window to become non-active comprises at least one of the following:
- 25 closing of the active window; and the active window becoming hidden.